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UNCLAS SANAA 000100

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SUBJECT: FINAL REPORT: DEMOCRACY SMALL GRANT FOR THE
COMBATING CHILD WORK ASSOCIATION

REF: A) STATE 187026 B) SANAA 5295

11. The Combating Child Work Association has concluded its training project titled "Awareness-Raising Program Among the Working Children's Community". The awareness sessions were conducted from 20 August until 22 December 103.

12. PAO and PAS attended the opening ceremony of the project in Aden city. PAO's remark focused on the NGO's important work to educate the society of child labor risks to the children and the society as whole. PAO explained that children get pulled out of schools to work in low-wage jobs and at the same time are exposed to various kinds of harassments and physical abuse. Above all these children lose the opportunity of a bright future when they have no education.

13. PAS traveled to Aden to follow up the project's activities and progress. PAS attended three awareness sessions in poverty stricken communities. The first session was the meeting of the speakers and specialists to discuss the program's plan, methodology and progress. Participants in this session included the head of Aden University who offered his support for the project.

14. PAS attended the second activity of the program where the actual awareness session was conducted at a very poor populated targeted area within Aden city where child labor is common. The speakers in the session addressed the current situation of working children and the risk they are exposed to during their work. The speakers encouraged parents to keep their children in schools for a better future and better life. Parents talked about difficulties they face and reasons why they pull their children out of school and force them to work. One of the main reasons for child labor is poverty.

15. From the audience, a mother of about 50 years stood up to speak about her commitment to educate her children and the daily financial struggle she went through to provide food for her children in order to keep them in school and educate them for the future.

16. The session was able to engage parents in thinking about their children's future, but the reality of the poverty and the need for food and shelter remain one of the biggest hindering factors for changing the current situation of child labor.

17. PAS also attended a third awareness session where most of the audiences were mothers who came to the session with many questions and eager desire for help. In this session, it was obvious to the awareness committee that the magnitude of the problem is much larger than the sincere, yet small efforts of the project. The weak education system, the practice of some damaging traditional beliefs, and the stagnant economical situation are all factors in the making of this problem.

18. One of the main questions that resulted from this project is how effective the awareness sessions were? Were there measurable results? What are they?

19. The awareness committee realizes that the awareness sessions provided this poor society a platform to be heard, to offer them guidance and possible help. However, they also realize that awareness sessions are not enough to make a difference and that their future project must have measurable results and focused goals.

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